



Dear CSUSM students, faculty and staff,

We find ourselves reeling yet again in the aftermath of a senseless and brutal tragedy. Tyre Nichols, a 29-year-old Black father and son, died at the hands of five Memphis police officers during a traffic stop earlier this month.

I do not have the words to adequately describe my outrage and sorrow. The disregard for Tyre's life is horrendous. An avid skateboarder and nature photographer, Tyre was full of love and life. We send thoughts of love and solidarity to those who knew and loved Tyre, to the Memphis community, to the Black community, and to all communities affected by the repeated trauma of inhumane actions.

As we share the pain and mourn together for another Black life that was ended without dignity or justice, know that we are here to support each other. Today at noon, the Black Student Center is hosting a Black Community Dialogue Circle to process and support one another. In addition, the following resources are available:

[CSUSM Library Black Lives Matter Resource Guide](#)

[Cougar Care Network](#)

[Office of Inclusive Excellence](#) (including the Faculty Staff Associations)

[Student Health & Counseling Services](#)

[Student Life Centers for Identity, Inclusion and Empowerment](#)

[Employee Assistance Program](#)

In the summer of 2020, shortly after I arrived at CSUSM, I committed – along with many of you – to the ongoing anti-racist work of this university – work that is continuing, and must continue. In the coming weeks, the Office of Inclusive Excellence and Student Affairs will be offering opportunities for our campus to come together to discuss where we've been and next steps in our work together. While we have undertaken several initiatives, I know there is so much more to do; we can never stop.

Please take care of yourselves and lean in to care for each other in the coming days.

In Cougar solidarity,

Ellen Neufeldt

President